The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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Wolfpack In Full Cry Against Child Amendment

The wolfpack, led by the National Manufacturers' association, is in full cry against the federal child labor amendment. The pack is flanked by every exploiter, standpatter, and beneficiary of the status quo.

The wolfpack's cry is a familiar one. It has been heard every time social progress is proposed.

The wolfpack does not hear the plea of children who are forced to labor in mills, mines and factories. Instead, it would prove that these children total but one million, or just a few hundred thousand.

The horrors of even one child forced to labor is lost on the wolfpack.

The pack is cornered. It is on the defensive and the old game is again being played—terrify and mystify the people, and slander every citizen who is in the vanguard of social progress.

The wolfpack paints frightful pictures of children thrown into the maw of a federal bureaucracy.

This is the intellectual capacity of men and women who never raised their voice against the greatest wrong a nation can do—permit child labor.

The familiar cry of "unAmerican" and "socialism" is yelped against unselfish citizens who have forced our nation to advanced social positions, while the wolfpack snarled and clawed, as they snarl and claw today.

Every ancient sophistry, legal twist and sharp reasoning is again trooped before the people to bewilder and confuse.

The wolfpack senses another danger in the child labor amendment.

This is the first constitutional change in more than 100 years that was initiated by the common people. It is the first amendment to challenge the forces of privilege.

No other amendment to the constitution so directly affects the profits of privilege.

This amendment is devoid of any possibility that court interpretations can twist it to the advantage of privilege, as has been the case with other amendments.

If the child labor amendment is adopted, it means that the provisions of the constitution providing for amendment can function.

It also means that the people will note that it is within their power to change the constitution, regardless of the wishes of privilege.

This possibility is not overlooked by the wolfpack. That's why its members so wholeheartedly oppose the child labor amendment, though many of the pack are not directly interested in child labor.

Defeat this amendment and hereafter the constitution will not be changed except with our consent, is the wolfpack's strategy.

The wolfpack's plea for country and for home is bedraggled and time-worn, but the pack is hopeful there is one more victory in the overworked and untruthful cry.

LABOR OF 5 NATIONS GRIP HANDS IN TEXAS

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—Representatives of organized wage earners of the United States, Canada, Mexico, England and Germany gripped hands at the conclusion of the joint session of the American Federation of Labor and the Mexican Federation of Labor.

The convention hall rocked with the cheers of the American delegates and the fervent "Vivas!" of the Mexicans. The entrance of the 1,000 delegates from across the Rio Grande brought the A. F. of L. delegates to their feet. The Mexicans were escorted to the hall by a committee of which John Sullivan, president of the New York central body, was chairman. The Mexicans, with their uniformed band, were met in the middle of the international bridge.

In his welcoming address, President Gompers spoke of the time when "adventurers and profit-mongers took advantage of the situation in Mexico to stir up ill feeling on both sides of the line." He predicted that the fraternal feeling the organized labor movements in both countries have developed will result in peace and good will between the two nations.

Labor Assembles On Rio Grande; Unionism Is Better Understood

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—The forty-fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor convened in this city under unusual circumstances.

Far from industrial United States, and at one end of a state that is a mighty empire of itself, the organized workers assembled on the Rio Grande. Their Mexican fellow trade unionists are meeting just across the river. Both groups are renewing their pledges of fraternity and solidarity.

The internationalism of these gatherings was emphasized by the presence of A. B. Swales and C. T. Cramp, fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress; John Colbert, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, and Peter Grassman, representing the German Confederation of Trade Unions. The latter is here in the interest of the German trade unions, which have been caught between the millstones of reaction and revolution. The A. F. of L. recently issued a financial appeal to sustain the German trade unions, and forwarded the generous responses to the organized workers of that country.

The report of the executive council to the A. F. of L. convention declares that "the year has witnessed many dramatic developments affecting wage earners, and the labor movement itself has witnessed a steady progressive movement toward better organization, a great influence on our whole social life in all its important aspects."

"It is with immense satisfaction," the report continues, "that we note the growth of constructive and progressive thought on every hand, perhaps the healthiest sign on our whole horizon. It is obvious that there is today a greater understanding of the aims of labor than ever before, a greater and deeper sympathy with labor's purposes and aspirations and a finer spirit of cooperation."

The report recommends that the Clayton law be amended so that labor injunctions will not be issued, as was intended when the Clayton law was passed. Other recommendations include an active campaign in favor of the child labor amendment and the abolition of the railroad labor board.

The council again calls attention to the unlimited power of the people's credit when controlled, as now, by private forces.

"Banking and credit are as inseparable as life and air. Unfortunately, credit, as now administered, too often serves to increase unearned incomes at the expense of earned incomes and constitutes a burden upon essential and necessary industry."

The executive council warns trade unionists against the hasty formation of labor banks, and urges a "most careful investigation and survey of all conditions surrounding such ventures."

The council's report includes special reports on education and on life insurance.

Women in industry was discussed at length in the report, which declares that this problem calls for continuous organizing work.

No reference was made to the A. F. of L. non-partisan political campaign, as the report was written in the closing days of the campaign. A special report on this subject will be made to the convention.

DOHENY LOAN TO FALL SHROUDED IN SECRECY

Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 22.—Fraud, conspiracy and illegality were asserted by the government to have constituted the background out of which Edward L. Doheny and Albert B. Fall, secretary of the interior in 1922, evolved the California naval oil leases to the Doheny interests.

"It was Doheny's master mind that controlled everything on behalf of his company," the government attorneys told the federal court.

In connection with the deal, the prosecution said, the evidence shows that Fall got $100,000 from Doheny in an alleged loan, and that Doheny got a property which, Doheny himself calculated, would yield his company $100,000,000.

Fall dealt with Doheny in a way so lavish as never before known in public history, the government attorneys declared. Secretary of the Navy Denby was declared to be a "rubber stamp" in the transaction.

Referring to the $100,000 which Doheny lent Fall, the prosecution insisted that whatever the motive behind it, the lending of the money placed Fall in Doheny's power at a time when Doheny, as a business man, was dealing with Fall as a government official for contracts and leases of a public nature.

"It has been said that this was a loan. Then why the secrecy?" the government attorneys asked. The cash was delivered by Doheny's own son, and "in two weeks that note was torn," the purpose of which, according to the prosecution, "was obviously to relieve Fall from obligation to pay this note." To sustain this position, the government pointed out, "there was no record of this note in Mr. Doheny's books."

LAW AIDS LANDLORDS; WHY NOT TENANTS?

Washington, Nov. 22.—If a government has the power to eject a tenant for non-payment of rent it should withhold the unfair and unreasonable exercise of such power when demanded by profiteering landlords.

This reasoning is presented by a committee representing organized tenants in this city who are resisting these landlords.

"Congress may prevent United States officials from being the active instruments of injustice and extortion. States may similarly so act. There have been too many instances where law has been an instrument for executing the will of the callous, the hard and the unjust upon the victims of circumstance," the tenants say.

It is declared that it is within the right of the legislature to prohibit the court to exercise jurisdiction in eviction cases "where such eviction is manifestly unfair and unjust under the reasonable standard of an enlightened modern public opinion."

In the fight against these gouging landlords it is shown that values of apartments have been boosted to double and treble their market value, and rentals are now demanded on the these fictitious figures.

JAPS LOSE FISHING RIGHT

Mexicali, Lower California, Nov. 22.—Extensive fishing concessions held by Japanese in Lower California have been cancelled by the Mexican authorities. It is stated that the Japanese violated the terms of their concessions, which will be turned over to Mexican interests and the fish shipments diverted from Japan to other parts of Mexico and to the United States.

This action is followed by the recent refusal of the authorities to permit a syndicate to colonize Lower California with 20,000 Japanese immigrants.

GET VACATION WITH PAY

Chicago, Nov. 22.—Increased wages, improved working conditions and one week's vacation with pay are included in the new contract signed by Meat Cutters' union No. 546 and their employers.

STEAM ENGINEERS GAIN

Denver, Col., Nov. 22.—Steam Engineers' union has secured substantial wage increases, effective the first of the year.

Labor-Controlled Life Insurance Is Favored By Union Committee

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—A special committee on insurance, appointed by President Gompers, and consisting of President Woll of the Photo-Engravers and President Perkins of the Cigarmakers, made one of the most interesting of the many able reports to the A. F. of L. convention.

The report showed that the life insurance companies of this country are collecting in premiums one billion dollars more than they return to policy holders. This does not include profits on their investments.

"The insurance business is increasing at an astonishingly enormous pace," the report said. This industry is second in value to the farm products, and in 50 years, according to some statisticians, the insurance companies will be in a position to control all the industries of the United States. At the present time the combined assets of these companies are approximately $10,000,000,000. These assets are in cash or the equivalent of cash and is invested in the bed rock, underlying and controlling securities of the nation.

The report declares that the insurance companies "have become one of the most powerful economic, social and political factors in the United States."

Profits on the capital stock of these concerns range from 18 to 22 per cent. The stocks have frequently increased 100 per cent in one year because of excessive profits, although the large expense of these companies is one of their greatest evils. Few companies show an expense ratio of less than 20 cents out of each dollar of premium received, and not a few companies have an expense of 40 to 50 cents out of each dollar of premium received.

"Life insurance is the safest and surest business in the whole world. It requires no great capital to start, and having the American experience table of mortality rate as a guide, it can not fail. There is no risk. It is much safer than banking and less intricate and much easier to control."

Included in the report are statements by insurance authorities who assisted the committee. One of these authorities said:

"There is nothing occult or even vague about the life insurance business. It does not even require the analytical, discriminating judgment necessary to the conduct of the banking business. The laws governing life insurance are well defined. They have been established by many decisions interpreting them, and a new company could not easily be discriminated against. No investment in machinery or goods, or in credits, is required; even the capital required to engage in the business may be retained and invested in income-producing securities."

The A. F. of L. committee declined to make definite recommendations as to the details of a labor insurance enterprise, but declared that "we have been convinced and fully persuaded that it is not only advisable and safe, but almost the duty of the unions jointly to adopt some form of proper insurance. However, we are opposed to have the A. F. of L., as such, actually engage in the insurance business."

ACCIDENT PREVENTION FIRST URGED BY LABOR

Chicago, Nov. 22.—"It is encouraging to note that traction companies of late are taking accident prevention promotion more seriously than heretofore," says Editor Bland of the Union Leader, published by the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes.

"There was a time when this movement consisted mostly of chatter at company dinners, designed only for public consumption through the press. The economic side of this problem, however, has forced practical and earnest effort upon the part of the companies and good results are now being obtained.

"It is quite amusing to old trade unionists to observe the lack of understanding of some of the men now interested in accident prevention promotion of the pioneer work done in this field, and of the disregard of its necessity by the companies in the old days. To hear some of these fellows talk, this kind of promotion would appear to be a new thing, for which the companies are now taking great credit. Well, it is a comparatively new thing—to the companies—and we are glad that they have seen the light.

"The trade union, if you please, was the pioneer in accident prevention promotion. In the mine, the shop, the factory, on the railroad, and in every branch of industry where trade unionism has prevailed, there the constant efforts of the unions have been to have safeguards that would prevent accidents.

"Did the old-time employers respond? They did—when they were forced to, through costly and bitter strikes and legislative enactment."

WILKERSON'S RULE APPEALED BY LABOR

Chicago, Nov. 22.—Federal Judge Wilkerson, author of the Daugherty injunction, has signed an order that D. R. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, appear before the railroad labor board and testify. On the basis of this order, the railroad employes will carry the case to the United States supreme court.

The workers have refused to appear before the board in their wage dispute with western carriers on the ground that the board is prejudiced against them.

FAVOR BALANCED NAVY

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—A well-balanced navy, based on the treaty ratio established by the conference on limitation of naval armament, was favored at the convention of the metal trades department, A. F. of L.

Officers were instructed "to proceed with a joint organization campaign in the electrical industry at the earliest favorable date."

President Keough of the International Molders' union was elected sixth vice president of the department, to succeed Joseph T. Valentine, resigned. Because of ill health Mr. Valentine recently resigned as president of the president. All other officers of the department were re-elected.

IMMIGRATION LAW MUST MEET FOES

Washington, Nov. 22.—"An elastic immigration" policy is part of the legislative program of the United States chamber of commerce, which has been placed before President Coolidge.

Other recommendations are: Ship subsidy, opposition to the Howell-Barkeley bill, repeal of the publicity feature of the income tax law and a national commission to study federal taxation.

The chamber's immigration policy would be in the hands of a commission which would recommend "a certain leeway, both above and below the fixed quota," according to business conditions, as viewed by the commission.

This immigration policy, when considered in conjunction with the immigration policy of the National Manufacturers' association, indicates that business interests are determined to weaken, if not destroy, the present quota law.

The manufacturers' plan was explained by their attorney, James E. Emery, before a congressional committee, early this year. Mr. Emery said the law should permit employers to go abroad, place men under contract abroad, on wages that would seem satisfactory abroad, and bring them here if it could be shown to a commission that like labor could not be secured in this country.

In opposing this plan, A. F. of L. representatives showed that under the conditions of contracts such as could be secured in distracted Europe at this time, "like labor" at the wages for which labor could be secured there could not be found in this country.

The trade unionists also pointed out that the manufacturers' policy would result in driving American labor out of all industry and converting the industrial centers of this country into huge contract concentration camps.

BUILDING TRADES ELECT

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 22.—The building trades department, A. F. of L., elected George F. Hedrick president, and William J. Tracy secretary-treasurer at its annual convention in this city. The former is president of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, and the latter is a member of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters. The new officials succeed John Donlin and William J. Spencer. The latter has served as secretary-treasurer of the department since its formation.

PAINTERS ASK HEALTH LAW

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 22.—Northwest painters are urging the passage of legislation that will end the practice of covering old wall paper. This refuge for dangerous germs should be removed, the painters insist.

BAKING MERGER GROWS

New York, Nov. 22.—The Continental baking company, the new super bakery trust, has taken over the Livingston baking company of Chicago.

ESTABLISH UNION SHOP

Salem, Ore., Nov. 22.—A union shop clause features the new agreement between organized meat cutters and employers in this city.

WEAKEN CONGRESS, IS BIG BIZ PLAN

New York, Nov. 22.—The Wall Street Journal voices the financial world's opposition to "tinkering with the constitution"—unless said "tinkering" restricts the people's power.

In that case the "tinkering" is statesmanship of the highest order.

The W. S. J. wants two changes in the constitution. It wants the president to have the power to veto specific items in appropriation bills without being obliged to return the whole measure to congress, and it wants things fixed so that when the president calls an extra session of congress, he can dictate to congress what the law-making branch may consider.

The veto power over any appropriation would be an abandonment of the age-long principle that law-making bodies control the nation's purse strings. This has been the great restraining power that the legislative branch has always held over the executive.

The two suggestions of the Wall Street Journal are in accord with its declaration of June 10, 1924: "Business proposes that the president shall govern the United States and is taking steps to make its will effective."

STANDPATS HOPEFUL; LABOR AGGRESSIVE

New York, Nov. 22.—Republican victories in the elections are expected to have an "unfavorable effect" upon legislation sought by trade unions, according to a report made to the national industrial council, at its semi-annual meeting in this city. The council is a federation of a score of anti-union employers' associations.

These employers, however, were told that they must face the same old fight and that the principal contests will be on the federal child labor amendment, to secure state compensation insurance laws, limitation of hours for wage-working women and anti-labor injunction legislation. The latter is referred to by the employers as an effort to secure "further immunity from state laws."

WOMEN'S CLUBS FAVOR NEW CHILD LABOR BAN

Lake Placid, N. Y., Nov. 22.—After an all-day's debate, the annual convention of the New York state federation of women's clubs approved the federal child labor amendment, and will ask the state legislature to ratify same. The resolution was proposed by Mrs. U. G. Welch, chairman of the federation's committee on child welfare.

The opposition was led by Mrs. Edward S. Shumway of Brooklyn, who pictured the amendment as the opening wedge for a system that would overthrow our institutions. She read a lengthy charge that the effect of the amendment would mean the surrender of the child to a bolshevic state. One delegate pointed out that these statements were made when equal suffrage was urged, and Mrs. Shumway was forced to acknowledge that she was reading from a Washington (D. C.) publication that did oppose votes for women. Opponents of the child labor amendment were swept aside amid gales of laughter and the resolution was adopted with but few dissenting votes.

CAN CONTROL R. R. CARS

Washington, Nov. 22.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the interstate commerce commission has the authority to issue preference orders for the use of railroad freight cars.

The decision makes the commission the dictator of rolling stock whenever it is of the opinion that a shortage of equipment, congestion of traffic or other emergency exists in any section of the country. The decision also indicates the centralization of power that the commission is extending over the railroads.

JAPANESE NOT WRONGED BY U. S. EXCLUSION ACT

Providence, R. I., Nov. 22.—In an address in this city, Dr. Yusuki Tsurumi, leader of the Liberal party in Japan, expressed the belief that the recent passage of the Oriental exclusion act, by congress, was "inexplicable."

The Far East statesman adopted the general policy of Japanese and their friends in the United States by implying that the act is aimed specifically at the Japanese, rather than every country whose nationals are ineligible to citizenship in the United States.

In this propaganda there is no attempt to challenge the right of the United States to say who shall be admitted, but objection is raised to "the method employed."

In other words, the Japanese and their friends do not object to exclusion legislation provided it does not exclude, as was the case with the "gentlemen's agreement."

That agreement, negotiated by President Roosevelt in 1907, is the only instance where the regulation of immigration was taken out of the hands of congress. Japan pledged to check further immigration to this country. Under the agreement, however, relatives and wives of Japanese now here continued to arrive with the resultant multiplication of population.

Congress then assumed its prorogative last spring and despite protests by the administration, passed a law which debars from this country those who can not acquire citizenship.

This is no new policy. For 134 years the United States has limited the privilege of naturalization to the white race. This law has remained unchanged, and the United States supreme court has recently held that it also applies to the Japanese.

The "gentlemen's agreement" was special legislation in favor of the Japanese and against other Oriental peoples. The new law, which Japan now objects to, places that country on the same basis as other countries of the Far East.

That Japan accepts the exclusion theory is shown by her own policy of debarring Chinese and Koreans from Japan.

A clear understanding of Japanese exclusion by the United States is made difficult by the jingoistic policy of a group in Japan, who are aided in America by a group of sentimentalists and by business men who maintain commercial relations in Japan and who care nothing for the profound social and economic issues involved.

LABOR BOARD CHIEF IS RABID PARTISAN

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 22.—Regardless of political beliefs, trade unionists in this state are denouncing the unfairness of Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the railroad labor board and former governor of Tennessee.

During the recent campaign Hooper left his post in Chicago as a mediator between railroad managers and employes, to stump this state for the national administration and to denounce railroad employes.

Instead of assuming a judicial attitude and protecting the office of chairman of the railroad labor board, which he happens to hold, Hooper violated the first rules of common fairness and decency by putting the office into partisan politics.

He justified charges by the railroad brotherhoods that the board is prejudiced. These workers have refused to appear before Hooper, who has secured an injunction from Federal Judge Wilkerson commanding them to appear.

Albert E. Hill, editor of the Labor Advocate, suggests that Senator McKellar make Hooper's conduct in Tennessee a matter to be considered by the United States senate.

The labor editor insists that Hooper resign, as he has disqualified himself as a fair and impartial arbiter.

STATE LABOR BOARD CALLS CONFERENCE

New York, Nov. 22.—The annual industrial conference of New York state will be held in this city December 2, 3 and 4 under the auspices of the state department of labor.

"The broad general theme of the conference will be the maintenance of peace and stability in industry," said Bernard L. Shientag, industrial commissioner of the state department of labor. "Under this general head it is proposed to consider: The peaceful solution of industrial disputes, what should be labor's participation in the conduct of industry, the effect of the shorter workday in industry, co-operation in accident prevention and the health of the workers in industry."

Speakers of international reputation have been invited to attend, and a general invitation is extended to the public. The conference will be held at the Hotel Roosevelt.

FEAR, NOT REASON, WON

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 22.—The terroristic policy of La Follette opponents turned the tide in this state, according to William J. Coates, editor of the Labor World.

"Prior to the election almost every other person one met talked favorably of La Follette," the labor editor said. The approximate vote was: Coolidge, 185,000; La Follette, 123,000; Davis, 40,000.

"Fear, more than anything else, is responsible for the change. Fear on the part of the business man that conditions would be disturbed, that his capital would be endangered. Fear on the part of the worker that if industrial depression came he would be out of a job. Fear by the farmer that markets would be weakened and his product sold at a loss."

MILLIONS IN BENEFITS

Cincinnati, Nov. 22.—The $5,000,000 mark for sick benefits is being rapidly reached by the International Molders' union. The latest report shows that from January 1, 1896, to September 30, 1924, the union expended $4,709,764.45 for this purpose.

FLORIDIANS ARE HELD ON PEONAGE CHARGES

Pensacola, Fla., Nov. 22.—A federal grand jury has indicted Sheriff Clark and County Judge Chafin of Calhoun county, and several other persons in connection with alleged peonage practices in the turpentine fields of that section of this state.

Following an exhaustive investigation by federal agents, the accused are charged with having arrested laborers and bringing them to trial before Judge Chafin. The latter, it is stated, has admitted to federal officials that he "imposed costs," with an added $100 for "services of the men to go after the laborers."

The prosecution, it is claimed, will tell a harrowing tale of brutality toward men who escaped from these camps. When captured, some of the fugitives were stripped of clothing, fastened to the ground and lashed.

The trial, it is declared, will show that the evils of the convict camps in the turpentine fields continue, though the state legislature passed a bill forbidding the leasing of convicts to private companies and abolished the lash in prison camps.

This law followed the death of Martin Tabert of North Dakota, who was arrested for riding on a freight train. He was leased to the Putnam lumber company, in whose camp he was flogged.

MAY CUT OUT WASTES AND NOT CUT WAGES

New York, Nov. 22.—Wall street has finally heard of the terrific wastes in industry and suggestions are made that these wastes be cut, rather than wages.

"Apparently the idea is held among industrial leaders," says one financial writer, "that the prevailing cost basis, in view of immigration restrictions, can be reduced to better advantage through high operating economy rather than by paying employes less."

Textiles is the one industry that persists in following the old course. Wages are being lowered in unorganized mills, though President McMahon of the United Textile Workers has challenged these employers to eliminate waste and put their plants on a modern basis, rather than lower the purchasing power of employes.

TAXI DRIVERS STRIKE

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 22.—Taxi drivers in this city organized and increased wages, except in the case of the Yellow cab company. These drivers suspended work. Their wages have ranged between $11 and $14 a week.

LATHERS' NEW HOME

Cleveland, Nov. 22.—The Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International union has moved into a new building. This union is now listed with those labor organizations that own their headquarters.

COPPER PROFITS ARE HIGH

New York, Nov. 22.—A net income of $6,575,996 for the first nine months of 1924 is reported by the Utah copper company. These profits are exclusive of taxes and depreciation.